

REMARKS

Amendment summary

Claim 37 is amended to recite a mixture of an Si oxide and at least one metal selected from the group consisting of Pd, Pt, Au, Rh, Ir, Ru, Os and Re. Support for this amendment may be found at least, e.g.,

Claims 44 and 46 are canceled.

Claims 49-60 are newly added.

No new matter is added by this amendment, and Applicants respectfully submit that entry of this Amendment is proper.

Response to rejection of claim 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 46 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 46 has been canceled, and therefore respectfully submits that this rejection has been rendered moot.

Response to rejection of claims 37, 41, 42, 44-46 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based on Yasunami

Claims 37, 41, 42, 44-46 and 48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Yasunami (U.S. Patent No. 6,371,995). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection should be reconsidered in view of the amendments to the present claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Response to rejection of claims 37, 41, 42, 44-46 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based on Tomiyama

Claims 37, 41, 42, 44-46 and 48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Tomiyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,053,953). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection should be reconsidered in view of the amendments to the present claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Response to rejection of claims 37, 41, 42, 44-46 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based on Asanuma

Claims 37, 41, 42, 44-46 and 48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Asanuma et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,001,139). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection should be reconsidered in view of the amendments to the present claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Response to rejection of claims 37, 41, 42, 44-46 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based on Inoue

Claims 37, 41, 42, 44-46 and 48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Inoue et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,707,756). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection should be reconsidered in view of the amendments to the present claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Response to rejection of claim 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on Yasunami

Claim 43 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yasunami (U.S. Patent No. 6,371,995). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection

should be reconsidered in view of the amendments to the present claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Response to rejection of claim 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on Yasunami in view of Takada

Claim 47 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yasunami (U.S. Patent No. 6,371,995) in view of Takada (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0166409). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection should be reconsidered in view of the amendments to the present claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Response to rejection of claim 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on Tomiyama

Claim 43 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomiyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,053,953). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection should be reconsidered in view of the amendments to the present claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Response to rejection of Claim 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based Tomiyama in view of Takada

Claim 43 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tomiyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,053,953) in view of Takada (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0166409). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection should be reconsidered in view of the amendments to the present claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Response to rejection of claim 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on Asanuma

Claim 43 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Asanuma et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,001,139). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection should be reconsidered in view of the amendments to the present claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Response to rejection of claim 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on Asanuma in view of Takada

Claim 43 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Asanuma et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,001,139) in view of Takada (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0166409). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection should be reconsidered in view of the amendments to the present claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Response to rejection of claim 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on Inoue

Claim 43 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Inoue et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,707,756). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection should be reconsidered in view of the amendments to the present claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Response to rejection of claim 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on Inoue in view of Takada

Claim 47 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,707,756) in view of Takada (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0166409). Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection should be reconsidered in

view of the amendments to the present claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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